

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SOE-02 DOE-11 TRSE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /076 W  
-----106854 312203Z /73

O R 312124Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5560  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0480

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ELAB, 08,5, NU  
SUBJECT: NATIONWIDE STRIKE ENTERS NINTH DAY

SUMMARY: THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT NATIONWIDE STRIKE IS DISSIPATING SOMEWHAT TODAY, JAN. 31. IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT THE WORK STOPPAGE MOVEMENT HAS GAINED A MOMENTUM OF ITS OWN WHICH THE STRIKE COMMITTEE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CONTROL. ALTHOUGH A FEW MORE BUSINESSES ARE OPEN TODAY THAN YESTERDAY, THE STRIKE MAY HAVE SPREAD TO OTHER AREAS HERETOFORE NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE STRIKE (EMG. REPORTED WALKOUT OF 46 TECHNICIANS FROM THE CENTRAL BANK). END SUMMARY

1. WE HAVE HAD RELIABLE REPORTS THAT AT LEAST 46 TECHNICIANS FROM THE CENTRAL BANK HAVE WALKED OFF THEIR JOBS. THIS IS THE FIRST SIGN WE HAVE SEEN OF GON EMPLOYEES JOINING THE STRIKE MOVEMENT. (COMMENT: IT IS ESPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY THAT CENTRAL BANK TECHNICIANS HAVE TAKEN THIS ACTION, FOR SUCH TECHNICIANS REPRESENT MUCH OF THE GON'S BEST TALENT. WE SUSPECT THAT THE PROMINENT PRO-SOMOZA STAND THAT CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT ROBERTO INCER HAS ESPoused DURING THE PRESENT STRIKE MOVEMENT AS WELL AS THE MEMORY OF THE SO-

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CALLED THURSDAY NIGHT MASSACRE OF DECEMBER 1976 ARE AMONG THE CAUSES FOR THIS WALK-OUT. AMONG SECTIONS OF THE BANK AFFECTED IS THE CHECK CLEARANCE UNIT WHOSE CLOSURE WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT BANKING TRANS-ACTIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.)

2. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT TEXACO'S DRIVERS ARE ON STRIKE, THAT SHELL IS NOT DISTRIBUTING FUEL AND THAT CHEVRON IS SUBJECT TO A

SLOWDOWN TODAY. GUARDIA NACIONAL TROOPS HAVE MOVED INTO THE ESSO REFINERY AND WILL NOT PERMIT THE WORK FORCE TO LEAVE THE PLANT. ESSO'S GENERAL MANGER, DANILO LACAYO RAPPACCIOLI, SAYS FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION THAT "THE REFINERY IS WORKING, INVENTORIES ARE AMPLE, AND DELIVERIES ARE BEING MADE." (COMMENT: INVENTORIES OF MOST POL SUPPLIES EXCEPT COOKING GAS AND DIESEL ARE REPORTEDLY ADEQUATE TO COVER MOST CONSUMPTION NEEDS FOR THREE WEEKS, BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT ESSO'S DELIVERIES ARE SLOW.)

3. WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS FROM SOURCES CLOSE TO THE NATIONAL STRIKE COMMITTEE THAT THE WORK STOPPAGE MIGHT CEASE ON THURSDAY, FEB 2. ON THE OTHER HAND, AN AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN WHO IS IN EXCELLENT POSITION TO OBSERVE MUCH OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PRIVATE SECTOR TOLD EMBOFF TODAY THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME SOFTENING IN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION IN THE STRIKE (EMG. SOME FIRMS -- MOST OF WHICH ARE OWNED BY PERSONS CONNECTED WITH SOMOZA OR GON PERSONALITIES - HAVE BEGUN TO OPEN IN LAST FEW DAYS), THE NUMBER OF HARD LINERS AMONG BUSINESSMEN WHO FAVOR CONTINUING THE STRIKE REMAINS SIGNIFICANT. MOREOVER, SOURCE OBSERVED, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT MANY WORKERS ARE DETERMINED TO KEEP STRIKE GOING EVEN IF THEIR EMPLOYERS MAY BE INCLINED TO END IT. ANOTHER SOURCE SAID WORKERS AGREED TO ACCEPT ONLY HALF PAY FOR DURATION OF STRIKE AT SOME FIRMS IN ORDER TO SHOW SOLIDARITY IN KEEPING PRESSURE ON SOMOZA.

4. GON ANNOUNCED OFFICIALLY THAT SOME 73 PERCENT OF NEARLY 4,000  
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SURVEYED FIRMS IN THE MANGUA DISTRICT WERE OPEN YESTERDAY, JAN 30, AND THAT ANOTHER 4 PERCENT WERE PARTIALLY OPEN. EMBASSY SURVEY OF MANAGUA'S MAJOR INDUSTRIAL AND SHOPPING CENTERS INDICATED THAT MOST OF THE LARGER ENTERPRISES REMAINED CLOSED BOTH TODAY AND YESTERDAY. (COMMENT: IF OFFICIAL FIGURES ARE CORRECT, THE GON MUST BE COUNTING SIDEWALK VENDORS, OPEN AIR MARKET STALLS AND SMALL ITENDAS TO REACH UNREALISTICALLY HIGH PERCENTAGE OF FIRMS OPEN YESTERDAY.) WE HAVE HAD RELIABLE REPORT THAT SOME OF BANCO DE AMERICA AND BANCO NICARAGUENSE BRANCHES WHICH WERE OPEN YESTERDAY CLOSED TODAY, WHICH MEANS THAT LESS THAN ONE-FOURTH OF THESE LEADING COMMERCIAL BANKS' BRANCHES IN MANAGUA ARE OPEN TODAY.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014